



1/8
Reconsideration
S. Zimmerman
PATENT

SEN 10/057,719

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Stephen J. Garske	Examiner:	Mark Graham
Serial No.:	10/057,719	Group Art Unit:	3711
Filed:	January 25, 2002	Docket:	617.039US2
Title:	GOLF CUP SLEEVE		

RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111

RECEIVED

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

DEC 18 2002

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed on September 10, 2002, the references cited therewith, and the Examiner Interview Summary of October 31, 2002. Claims 1-3, 8, 9, 11-14, 20, and 22-30 are pending in this application.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1, 3, 9, 11, 12, 13, 20, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27 and 29

Claims 1, 3, 9, 11, 12, 13, 20, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27 and 29 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hageman (US 5,362,044).

Applicant thanks the Examiner for courtesies shown during the phone interview of October 31, 2002. In the interview, claim 1 was discussed along with the Hageman and Boyd references. Agreement was reached that Hageman teaches away from a "one-piece, seamless cylinder," as recited in claim 1, since Hageman is directed to a printable, flat insert that is inserted into a golf cup. Since the rest of the independent claims include similar limitations as claim 1, Applicant believes those claims are also distinguished over the Hageman reference.

During the interview, the Examiner asked Applicant to present arguments concerning the present claims in view of the Boyd reference (UK Application 2,206,804). Boyd discusses a golf hole cup liner comprising a strip of flexible and resilient material shaped to conform to the inside of a golf hole cup (Abstract, Boyd). Applicant notes that such a design allows sand and dirt to work its way through the seam and slowly unfix the sleeve from the cup. This also allows the sleeve to snag on hands or clubs.

In contrast, the present system provides a smooth interior to the golf cup. Applicant